

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9324
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: EXPORT CONTROLS: ARGENTINE CREDIT TO CUBA

1. SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL SUBSIDIARIES OF US FIRMS IN ARGENTINA (GOODYEAR AND GENERAL MOTORS) APPROACHED CONCERNING POSSIBLE EXPORT SHIPMENTS TO CUBA. PARENT FIRMS WILL CONTACT USG AGENCIES. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON COUNSELOR FROM EMBASSY BA, IN RIO FROM SEPT 23 FOR ECON/COMM CONFERENCE, REPORTS ON CONTACTS LATE LAST WEEK AND WEEKEND WITH EXECUTIVES US SUBSIDIARIES IN ARGENTINA CONCERNING SUBJECT. THIS REPORT ADDS TO NUMBER OF US FIRMS' SUBSIDIARIES INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE EXPORT CONTROLS PROBLEMS WHICH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

3. CHIEF EXEC (NOW ARGENTINE CITIZEN) GOODYEAR TIRE SUBSIDIARY BA (ALMOST 100 PERCENT US OWNED) REPORTED SEPT 20 THAT HIS FIRM HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY LEADERS IN CONFEDERACION GENERAL ECONOMICO (CGE) WHO ASKED GOODYEAR TO RECEIVE CUBAN PURCHASING MISSION. CGE OFFICIAL STATED CUBANS SEEKING VARIOUS TYPES VEHICLE TIRES AND CGE HOPED GOODYEAR COULD HELP SUPPLY FOR EXPORT. GOODYEAR WIDELY KNOWN TO HAVE LARGEST AND MOST VARIED PRODUCTION IN ARGENTINA. GOODYEAR CHIEF, WHO WAS IN
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CHARGE THEIR PLANT IN CUBA WHEN IT EXPROPRIATED, DID NOT

REFUSE BUT PLEADED CONSTRUCTION AND PLANT PRODUCTION LINE MODIFICATIONS NOW IN PROGRESS MADE VISIT INCONVENIENT FOR PRESENT. AFTER OUR GENERAL BRIEFING ON SUBJECT, WE INDICATED GOODYEAR USA SHOULD DISCUSS WITH STATE & TREASURY. DEPT FULLY AWARE CGE ROLE AND INFLUENCE WITH PRESENT GOA.

4. ON SEPT. 22, US CITIZEN CHIEF EXEC OF GENERAL MOTORS ARGENTINA (GMA) REPORTED CUBAN PURCHASING MISSION (CPM) OFFICIAL CONTACTED GMA DIRECTLY, STATING CPM HAS RECEIVED AUTHORITY FROM MINISTERIES OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO VISIT ANY INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATION IN COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL "ARGENTINE," AND ASKED GMA TO RECEIVE GROUP VISIT. VISIT CARRIED OUT SEPT. 21. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS CPM INDICATED INTEREST IN 1000 VEHICLES INCLUDING AUTOS, PICK-UPS AND LIGHT TRUCKS. GMA CHIEF INDICATED HE FACED SEVERAL DIFFICULTIES IN SUPPLYING TO CUBA INCLUDING LEGAL PROBLEMS. ASKED CPM LEADER IF SHE ANTICIPATED IMPROVEMENT US/CUBAN RELATIONS. HER REPLY WAS TO EFFECT RECENT STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY KISSINGER INDICATED LITTLE OR NO CHANGE US POSITIONS, CUBAN POSITION ALSO APPEARS FIXED, AND SHE SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR EARLY CHANGES. SUCH CONVERSATION REPORTEDLY CUT OFF DISCUSSIONS OF WHAT GMA PRODUCES BUT CPM GROUP ON DEPARTURE FROM PLANT STATED THEY WOULD SEND A LETTER TO GMA SOON REQUESTING QUOTATIONS ON PRICES, DELIVERY TERMS, ETC. GM IN US BEING INFORMED AND IS EXPECTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS.
BOONSTRA

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